



- Achieves a system of interconnected trail corridors
- Connects to the Ohio & Erie Canalway Township Trail and its associated greenway by extending linkages throughout the County
- Identifies trails of regional significance as a framework for expansion by local communities
- Highlights and focuses community attention on historic landscapes and unique features both culturally and naturally
- Identifies trail opportunities that are not associated with vehicular roadways and are suitable for multi-purpose use
- Utilizes low volume, rural and scenic roadways as alternate routes or situations where linkages are desirable and off road alternatives are not available
- Stimulates economic development, revitalization and development zones
- Increases access to trails to improve the health and wellness of the community

TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES When identifying trail opportunities within Summit County, the following criteria were considered:

- BENEFITS OF TRAILS** The benefits that development of trails and greenways provide to Summit County and its citizens are numerous. These benefits are already being realized and have the potential to extend well beyond immediate outcomes to help ensure a bright future for trails in Summit County.
- Transportation**
- Provides increased recreational opportunities such as:
 - Hiking • Biking
 - Walking • Running • Wildlife watching
 - Paddling • Horseback Riding
 - Special Events
- Community and Social**
- Creates programming opportunities
 - Promotes recreation with nature
 - Shows measurable positive impacts in disease reduction, including obesity and diabetes
 - Provides opportunities for collaboration with the healthcare community
 - Promotes a common positive interest in the welfare of trail
 - Provides volunteer opportunities
- Health and Wellness**
- Increases opportunities for exercise
 - Improves mental health
 - Shows measurable positive impacts in disease reduction, including obesity and diabetes
 - Documented by health departments and hospitals
 - Provides opportunities for collaboration with the healthcare community
- Education**
- Creates interpretive opportunities
 - Gives citizens a better opportunity to learn about natural or historical features
 - Helps to get children outdoors
 - Provides areas for enhanced environmental education
 - Promotes stewardship for our community resources
- Economic Development**
- Expedites by residents stay in county
 - Promotes commercial uses
 - Enhances tourism and aids in corporate relocation and retention
 - Studies concluded that open space and parks increase value
- Greenways**
- A natural connection of people to places
 - Offers recreational, ecological and economic benefits
 - Preserves important natural habitats, provides wildlife migration routes as well as scenic and aesthetic appeal
 - Includes trail opportunities and alternative transportation
 - Greenways are an important part of implementation of this plan and continue to be a part of the grant program

- GREEN CONNECTIONS** Preservation and enhancement contributes to water and air quality, habitat, wildlife, open space protection and watersheds. Watershed areas include: Cuyahoga, Little Cuyahoga, Tuscarawas rivers and their tributaries. Park areas include: Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, and a multitude of community parks.
- Green Infrastructure**
- Uses natural systems to provide services to the community such as flood control and improving air and water quality
 - Uses nature's ecosystem services to meet the needs of people and nature

PLAN OBJECTIVES The Summit County Trail Plan identifies significant trail facilities and opportunities in Summit County. These trails link natural and cultural resources as a countywide system to achieve recreational, educational and economic development objectives. Communities will use this plan as a framework for more detailed local plans and connections.

Summit County is a vibrant, regionally connected community, rich in history, with an informed and engaged citizenry enjoying an exceptional trail network that provides recreation, transportation, and conservation of our unique natural and cultural resources. The Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County provide the framework for a fully integrated, county-wide trail system, through which every community in Summit County is linked to one another. This trail network creates a collaborative, multi-use trail connections, encourages resource conservation, cultivates stewardship of our natural, historical and recreational resources and stimulates community and economic development. Working together, we are maintaining Summit County's reputation as a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

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A COOPERATIVE VISION OF THE COMMUNITIES IN SUMMIT COUNTY
Executive Summary

Summit County TRAILS
A Comprehensive Plan

A legacy for future generations, the Summit County Trail Plan is a **bold vision** for a regional network of **open spaces and cultural and natural resources**. Linked together by public access, these resources promote recreational use and alternative transportation while **protecting and enhancing** the health and livability of the region.

The Summit County Trail Plan also includes other transportation alternatives and new recreational opportunities that will further expand regional connections.

- **The Ohio & Erie Canalway, America's Byway**, Ohio's first state and federally designated Scenic Byway, is an important element within the region promoting tourism, scenic and cultural awareness.
- **Mountain biking** is becoming increasingly popular and more land managers are exploring single track, multi-use trails. This trail plan supports the development, planning and sustainable construction of approved single-track trails.
- **Water trails** are now recognized nationally, being designated statewide and are in development within Summit County. Using existing waterways, water trail planning provides specific access points, facilities and information. The Cuyahoga River and the Tuscarawas River in the Confluence Park area are currently in the planning stages of becoming the region's first designated water trails.
- **The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad** provides excursion rail service from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park to Canton. This corridor service is an opportunity as a companion trail and rail component. Cuyahoga Valley National Park's Bike Aboard program is a vital alternative transportation and recreational opportunity.

The Advisory Committee would like to recognize the following agencies and organizations for their initial support and continued participation in the planning and implementation process.

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study • City of Akron • City of Barberton • Barberton Parks & Recreation Department • Bath Township • Village of Boston Heights • Boston Township • Cascade Locks Park Association • Cleveland Metroparks • Cleveland Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMA) • Village of Clinton • Copley Township • Copley Township • City of Coshocton Falls • Cuyahoga Falls Park and Recreation • Cuyahoga Valley National Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village of Doylestown • City of Fairlawn • First Energy Foundation • Friends of the Crooked River • Friends of Metro Parks • City of Green • City of Hudson • City of Hudson Parks • City of Kent Parks • Village of Lakemore • City of Macedonia • City of Macedonia Parks and Recreation • Medina County Park District • Metro Parks, Serving Summit County • Village of Mogadore • City of Monroe Falls • National Park Service, Rivers & Trails Program • City of New Franklin • Village of Northfield • Northfield Center Township • City of Norton • Ohio Department of Natural Resources • Ohio & Erie Canalway Association • Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition • Ohio Horseman's Council • Ohio Rails to Trails Conservancy • PPG Industries • Village of Peninsula • Portage Lakes Advisory Council • Portage Lakes State Park • Portage Park District • Village of Reminderville • Richfield Township • Village of Richfield • Sagamore Hills Township • Village of Silver Lake • Silver Lake Parks • Springfield Township • Stark Parks • City of Stow • Stow Parks and Recreation • County of Summit • Summit County Engineer • City of Tallmadge • City of Twinsburg • Twinsburg Township • City of Wadsworth • Wayne County Park District |
|---|---|

- ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
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 - Bobbie Beshara, Village of Richfield
 - Al Bolas, City of New Franklin
 - David Cooper, City of Tallmadge
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- Curtis Baker, AMATS
 - Bob Bobel, Cuyahoga Valley National Park
 - Patrick Bravo, County of Summit
 - Lynn Garrity, Cuyahoga Valley National Park
 - Andrea Irland, NPS, Rivers & Trails
 - Elaine Goodrich, Bath Township
 - Tom Long, Citizen
 - Elaine Marsh, Friends of the Crooked River
 - Dan Rice, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition
 - Mark Szeremet, Metro Parks, Serving Summit County



The Summit County Trail Plan is supported by a grant from The S.L. Gimbel Foundation.

IMPLEMENTATION The foundation of the Summit County Trail Plan is the diversity of public-private partnerships working together to obtain the private, local, state and federal resources necessary for the planning, design and construction of the regional trail system. Working in collaboration with units of government, elected officials, corporations, park agencies, foundations, non-profit organizations and universities, the Summit County Trail Plan will develop a multi-use, regional trail network throughout Summit County. It is coordinated by the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, in partnership with Summit County government; Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, and the National Park Service. **For more information, please contact the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition at 330.374.5657.**

SUMMIT COUNTY TRAIL COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM Through the vision and leadership of the Summit County Executive and Summit County Council, the Summit County Trail Community Grant Program was established. Since 2001, annual grants have provided seed funding for local trail and greenway projects identified in the Summit County Trail Plan. Each dollar of county funds leverages \$12 of private, local, state and federal funds for local community projects.

Grant applications are available in February of each year and are due by April 30th. Grant applications may be downloaded from www.ohioeriecanal.org or by calling 330-374-5657.

Summit COUNTY TRAILS

A Comprehensive Plan

The Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan, for the past 12 years, included the construction of over 53 miles of trails with over 38 trails in planning and design. This plan represents 350 acres of greenspace acquired with the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail serving as a spine trail. Over 2 million visitors annually use the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail from Cleveland to New Philadelphia.



KEY

- Hiking Trail
- Biking Trail
- Bridle Trail
- Water Trail
- Bike Aboard Stop
- Park
- Designated Bike Lane
- Off-Road Trail
- Proposed Water Trail
- Proposed Off-Road Trail
- Towpath Trail
- Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

This map is for planning purposes only. Not a trail guide. Map references plan as of 2013.

These regional and local trail projects were funded, in part, through the Summit County Community Grant Program and are an integral part of the community and economic development of Summit County.



A Carter-Pedigo Trail

Located within the Village of Richfield, the trail consists of 1.25 miles that begins at the public library, behind Richfield Village Hall with an eventual connection to Brecksville Road. This scenic hiking trail contains quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species. All 1.25 miles of the trail are complete.
richfieldvillageohio.org



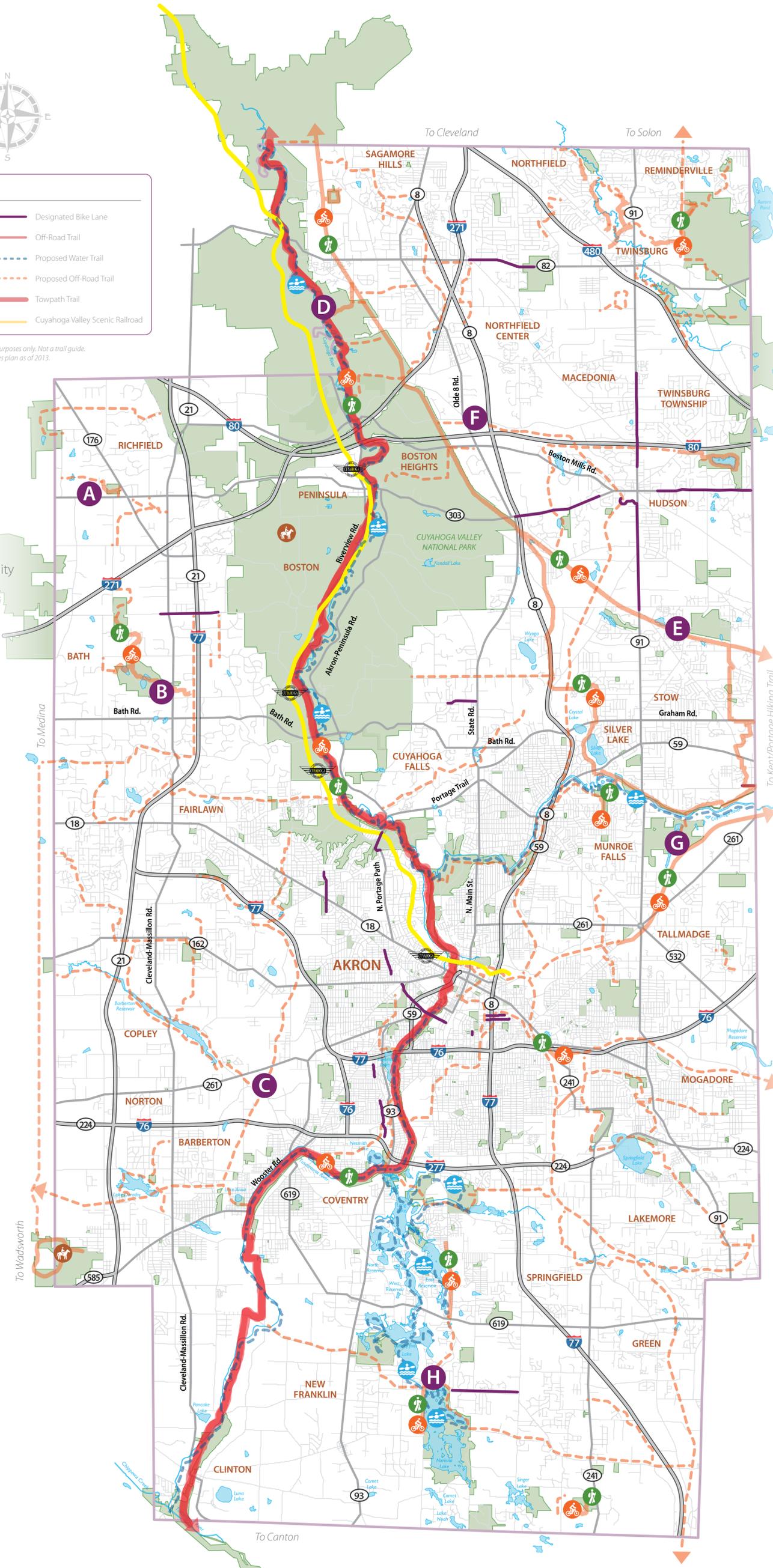
B Bath Township Nature Preserve North Fork Trail

Bath Township constructed 1.5 miles of the North Fork Trail which connects the Firestone Trace subdivision in the north of the township to the Cleveland Massillon Road Corridor through the Bath Nature Preserve to the south of the township. This was the first north and south trail connector within the township. The North Fork Trail serves as the main trail artery for Bath Township. Photo credit: Tim Fitzwater
bathtownship.org



C The Wolf Creek/Pigeon Creek Trail

A proposed regional trail spanning 13 miles, beginning in the City of Barberton and heading north to the City of Fairlawn. Property is being acquired and a feasibility study has been completed.



D The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

This 101-mile multi-purpose trail spans four counties from Cleveland to New Philadelphia, following the route of the historical Ohio & Erie Canal. Eighty-two miles are completed, including 41 miles in Summit County.
ohioanderiecanalway.com



E Bike and Hike Trail (complete)

The completed 33.5-mile Bike & Hike Trail was one of the first 'rails to trails' conversions in the country. Today, the Bike & Hike Trail traverses the Cuyahoga River and connects at the north end to the Cleveland Metro-parks bike trail. In 2012, the park district built a 1.1-mile off-road section of trail that loops around Brandywine Falls, one of the biggest attractions in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
summitmetroparks.org



F Heights to Hudson and Veterans Trail

A proposed regional trail connection spanning 18 miles beginning at the Metro Parks, Serving Summit County Bike & Hike Trail in the Village of Boston Heights, continuing into the City of Hudson, joining the Veterans Trail heading south through the Village of Silver Lake, City of Stow, City of Cuyahoga Falls and the City of Akron and ending at Northside in downtown Akron. A portion of this trail is scheduled for 2013 construction with the balance remaining in the planning phase.
hudson.oh.us



G Freedom Trail

This proposed 8.5-mile trail connects Portage County to Downtown Akron, as it travels through the cities of Akron, Tallmadge, Munroe Falls, and concluding at the Northside Station. A portion of this trail is complete, while remaining miles are in planning.
summitmetroparks.org



H Nimisila Reservoir Trail

Located in the City of Green, this proposed trail encircles Nimisila Reservoir and heads west through the City of New Franklin with a connection to the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Sections of this trail are under development.
cityofgreen.org